GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6458
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
DEPLETION IN OZONE LAYER IN ANTARCTICA REGION
Ponnuswamy Shri E.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has observed any changes in the Ozone layer particularly in the Antarctica region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the findings of the studies conducted in this regard during each of the last five years; and

(d) the preventive measures being taken to check further depletion of Ozone in the area?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a), (b) & (c) Yes, Sir. The India Meteorological Department has been conducting the studies to measure the vertical profile of ozone layer in Antarctica. These measurements indicate that ozone concentration exhibits a seasonal variation. During the months of September-October every year, there is about 80% decrease of ozone concentration as compared to the average value of ozone concentration during other months. The analysis of total ozone data also indicated that during September-October, about 60% of total ozone decreased when compared to the average value during the remaining months. The reason for changes in the Ozone Layer particularly over the Antarctica region is largely due to world wide emissions of the Ozone depleting substances (ODS).

(d) In order to tackle the issue of ozone depletion, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer are the two international agreements. These agreements contain the measures for phasing out ODS in developed as well as developing countries. India is a Party to both the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol and had taken necessary steps to phase out production and consumption of ODS in various sectors in accordance with the provisions of these agreements. The country programme has been prepared for phasing out various ODS and is under implementation in India.